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SIPDIS

DEPT ALSO FOR EUR/SCE AND EUR/SE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/05/2018
TAGS: [PREL](#) [UNGA](#) [UN](#) [KV](#) [SR](#) [GR](#)
SUBJECT: GREEKS UNCERTAIN ON KOSOVO ICJ RESOLUTION AT UNGA

REF: STATE 91908

Classified By: A/POL COUNSELOR JEFF HOVENIER. REASONS 1.4 (B) AND (D).

11. (C) A/Political Counselor raised reftel points on a possible UNGA resolution requesting an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on Kosovo's declaration of independence with Ambassador Eleftherios Angelopoulos, Director of the MFA A3 Directorate for Southeastern Europe. Angelopoulos responded that Greece is "seriously examining" this issue, including at the level of FM Bakoyannis. Greece has not taken a decision on how to approach such a resolution. And, Greece has concerns about it. On the one hand, Greece has maintained a long-term position of supporting Serbia, and Greece's views on Kosovo's independence are "well known" (Note: Greece has not recognized Kosovo's independence. End Note). However, Greece now views the situation in Kosovoto be "irreversible." Greece does not want "new problems" related to Kosovo, and it is "hard to understand" how referring the question of the legality of Kosovo's declaration of independence to the ICJ will help Serbia or other partners who are working to foster stability in Kosovo, including many who have recognized an independent Kosovo. A decision to refer this issue to the ICJ would likely "create uncertainty." Angelopoulos concluded by noting that the Greek MFA hoped to come to a policy decision "soon" on how to approach this issue, and he would be back in touch.

12. (C) Poloff followed up with Ambassador Alexandros Rallis, Director of the MFA D1 Department for United Nations and International Organizations Affairs. Rallis confirmed that Greece has not yet taken a decision on how to approach this issue, adding that no instructions have been sent to the Greek Mission in New York. Rallis noted the Serbian Ambassador in Athens had recently contacted him requesting Greece's support for the UNGA resolution, and had been told that Greece has not yet formulated its position. Rallis concluded that he would be meeting personally with FM Bakoyannis next week on this issue, and he promised to update us once a policy decision has been taken. We will continue to press GOG contacts to demur on supporting any Serbian resolution to refer the case to the ICJ.
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